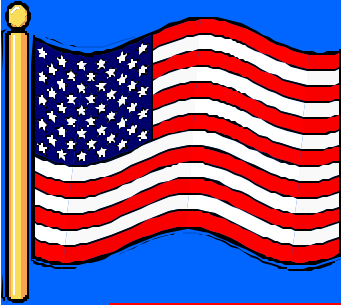


Volume 1, Issue 4

July 2004

2004 EMS Awards Banquet



Department of Human Resources
Division of Public Health

Office of EMS/Trauma News

The Georgia Association of EMTs, Inc. 2004 EMS Awards Banquet was held Thursday, May 13, 2004 at the Macon Coliseum & Centreplex. Nine EMS awards were presented for outstanding performance and dedication.

Pictured with each honoree is The Honorable Mark Taylor, Lieutenant Governor of Georgia and R. David Bean, EMS Director.

Thank you to Sam Cunningham, Region 7 EMS Program Director for the photographs.



The Joe Lane Cox Award was presented to Cathy Maxwell from The Medical Center in Columbus by Earl McGrotha of the North Georgia Region 2 EMS Council.



The Mary Beth Bowns Excellence in Trauma Care Award was presented to Jane Garbush of Sapelo Island and founder of the First Responders on the island. The award was presented by Ed and Connie Bowns, parents of

Mary Beth Bowns, EMT and Renee Morgan, Trauma System Manager, OEMS/T.



The Mike Miller EMS Educator of the Year Award was presented to Larry Vandegriff of Coosa Valley Technical College by David Loftin of the Northwest Georgia Region 1 EMS Council.



The Dr. Joe Simon Excellence in Pediatric Care Award was presented to Walter Collins Henson of the Medical Center of Central Georgia EMS in Macon by Kelly Buddenhagen, EMS-C Coordinator, OEMS/T.



The Dr. Zeb L. Burrell, Jr. Distinguished Service Award of Excellence was presented to Lee P. Oliver, III, EMS Director at the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon by Earl McGrotha of the Northeast Georgia Region 10 EMS Council.



The Dr. John B. O'Neal, III EMS Pioneer Award was presented to Dr. Zeb L. Burrell, Jr. of Elberton, Ga by Robert Vick of the Southwest Georgia Region 8 EMS Council.



The Georgia EMS Director of the Year award was presented to M. L. "Bud" Owens of Gordon County EMS by Lee Oliver, President of the EMS Directors Association of Georgia.



The Georgia EMT of the Year award was presented to Mike Cannon of Hutcheson Medical Center EMS by Richard Roberts, President of the EMT Association.



The Georgia Emergency Medical Service of the Year award was presented to Puckett EMS of Cobb County by Lee Oliver, President of the EMS Directors Association.

EMS Education and Events

Next EMS Council meetings and contacts:

Region 1—July 15, David Loftin
Region 2—Sept 16, Earl McGrotha
Region 3—Aug 19, Marty Billings
Region 4—July 20, Billy Watson
Region 5—Sept 16, Chris Threlkeld
Region 6—Aug 11, Lawanna Mercer-Cobb
Region 7—TBA, Sam Cunningham
Region 8—July 12, Robert Vick
Region 9—July 22, Shirley Starling
Region 10—TBA, Earl McGrotha

Gemsis Stakeholder Meeting

July 29, Macon, Ga. For information contact Fred Grant, Operations Analysis and Research Manager, OEMS, 404-679-0521.

18th Annual Georgia EMS Conference

August 17-20, 2004 at the Sea Palms Golf and Tennis Resort on St. Simons Island. For information, contact 912-354-1011.

75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Conference

presented by The Georgia Public Health Association. September 7-10, 2004 at the Marriott Riverfront Hotel in Savannah. For information visit: www.gapha.org

EMS EXPO 2004

October 19-23, 2004 at the Georgia World Congress Center. One of the largest EMS Conferences and Vendor Shows in the world! For information, call 1-877-EMS-EXPO or visit www.emsmagazine.com.

Trends in Medical Emergencies (TIME) Conference

November 10-11, 2004 at Darton College in Albany. For information call 229-439-7011.

Region 1

Contact the regional office at 706-295-6175 for more details pertaining to any of the following:

1. BTLS Courses—July-TBA Floyd and Murray Counties
2. National Registry Exam Dates
3. PHTLS Instructor Courses
4. MEND Prehospital Stroke Training

Region 7

Contact the regional office at 706-321-6150 for details pertaining to any of the following:

1. MEND Prehospital Stroke Training, August 2 & 16
2. National Registry EMT-I and EMT-P Written Exam at Columbus Tech, August 6
3. Basic Trauma Life Support Provider Course, August 27-28

Georgia EMS Trivia Question:

What was the first licensed ambulance service in Georgia?

Send your answers to: Marie Probst at mprobst@gdph.state.ga.us. Please type e-mail subject as "Georgia EMS Trivia Question Answer".

Read the next issue for the answer and see who is the **FASTEST RESPONDER!**

Editorial Correction:

The EMS by gender statistics were reported incorrectly in the last issue. Please note the correction below:

EMS by Gender

Male = 8297
Female = 2225
Unknown = 1604

Regional EMS Coordinator News

Region 1

by David Loftin, EMS Program Director
The Northwest Georgia EMS was contacted by Laura Pople of the American Heart Association wanting to sponsor individuals from Pickens, Cherokee, Bartow and Paulding counties to go to the Miami University School of Medicine to become instructors of the Acute Stroke Evaluation and Treatment program (MEND). The following individuals attended and were certified as instructors of the MEND program: David Loftin, Larry Vandegriff, Tim King, Glenn King and Dave Kleiman. The course seeks to change the mindset of pre-hospital providers who transport stroke patients. Previously, a stroke occurred and there was no urgency to get them to a hospital quickly - the damage was done and rehab would help them deal with the disability. However, now new advancements in the care of acute strokes enable medical professionals to reverse the stroke similar to current therapy for a heart attack. The dis-

covery is that 80% of strokes occur as a result of a clot in an artery supplying a section of the brain. Clotbuster drugs can now be administered to dissolve the clot. If given within 3 hours of the initial symptoms then the patient may recover with a minimum of disability. The patient must be transported to a facility which has a CAT scan to rule out strokes caused by rupture of arteries in the brain and which can deliver the clotbuster drug. The first two courses have been taught in Dallas and Canton. Courses are planned soon for Cartersville and Jasper. Visit the University of Miami website to learn more about the program at http://crme.med.miami.edu/emst_courses.html.



Region 9

MedStarOne, southeast Georgia's largest ambulance service, is now using the FirstWatch TM early warning syndromic and biosurveillance system. The 911 software program is designed to alert authorities of possible illness outbreaks, including bioterrorism attacks. The symptoms and complaints reported by patients are compared to both the historical data and the symptoms associated with certain events. When an abnormal pattern occurs, the software automatically alerts emergency personnel and public health officials via pagers, faxes, e-mail, and wireless messaging systems. It consolidates data from different dispatch centers onto a secure server, enabling regional, statewide, and national monitoring.

Source: www.memorialhealth.com, News Release 06/10/2004.

Trauma Education and Events

Trauma Lecture Series at The Medical Center in Columbus, Ga
Held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Conference Center at The Medical Center in Columbus at approx. 12:30p.m. Lunch is provided. The lectures feature speakers with extensive experience in their field of practice who present trauma specific topics that the local audience has requested. Come and listen to earn your 1.2 CEU's. For more information, please contact Cathy Maxwell at cathy.maxwell@crhs.net.

Trauma Lecture Series at DeKalb Medical Center

Held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in DMC Theater from 8am to 9am. There is no charge or registration, breakfast is served to early birds, and CEU/CME/prehospital credit is given. The lectures are open to anyone interested in trauma. For more information, please contact Kelly Nadeau at knadeau@dkmc.org.

Upcoming Trauma Coordinator Meeting(s):

July 28 and September 22, 10:00-3:00 in The Skyland Center, upper level conference room. For more information, please contact Renee Morgan at rwmorgan@gdph.state.ga.us or 404-657-6717.

ATLS Courses

Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon on July 17 & 18. Please contact Debra Kitchens at kitchens.debra@mccg.org for more information.

The Medical Center in Columbus on October 28-29. Please contact John Lunde at jrlunde@aol.com.

TOPICS

The TOPICS course will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2005, at the Medical Center of Central Georgia (MCCG) in Macon. Registration will be facilitated through Debra Kitchens, RN, Trauma Coordinator at MCCG and will be limited to 50 people. This course is provided for us at no charge by HRSA. Further information on registration and location will be sent out in January 2005. Please contact Renee Morgan for interim information at rwmorgan@gdph.state.ga.us or 404-657-2594.

Trauma Center Redesignation - Eleven trauma centers will be redesignated in the Fall of 2004.

The Trauma System Development Committee met via teleconference and the **Medical Review Committee** met in person on June 23rd to receive updates on the progress of the Georgia Trauma Plan, legislative activities, status of aggregated trauma data, and a G-8 report. Plans were announced to begin an in depth project to analyze the flow of trauma patients in Georgia. The data will be used to further develop the Georgia trauma system.

Kid's Corner



Splash into safety!

Water Safety Checklist for KIDS and BIG KIDS (Adults)

- ◆ Learn how to swim.
- ◆ Always swim with a buddy.
- ◆ Never run, push or jump on others around water.
- ◆ Inflatable inner tubes and "water wings" are not safety devices.
- ◆ Swim only within designated safe areas of rivers, lakes and oceans.
- ◆ Never dive into a river, lake or ocean.
- ◆ Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket when you are in or near an open body of water, a boat or when participating in water sports.

Summer Heat Threatens Kids in Cars

Don't let your child stay in or gain access to a parked car this summer. General Motors research shows that heatstroke fatalities among kids in parked cars rose 70 percent from 2002 to 2003. Find out how to prevent this tragedy from happening to your child or children in your community by going to the following link: <http://sk.convio.net/site/R?i=gQlxXefQ0nwFacBySNH8zw>

Not Enough Kids Wear Bike Helmets

While biking, in-line skating or skateboarding, fewer than half of kids ages 5 to 14 wear helmets, and more than a third who use helmets don't wear them right, SAFE KIDS found by studying children coast to coast. Helmets greatly reduce the risk of brain injury in crashes. See the following link for a checklist that helps you fit your child's helmet properly: <http://sk.convio.net/site/R?i=ptHCZS11wzIFacBySNH8zw>

Power Equipment Safety

Before you mow your lawn or till your garden with power equipment, check out this new brochure by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, produced in cooperation with SAFE KIDS. Follow the eight Safety Steps and other tips, and your whole family can enjoy the outdoors all summer long. <http://sk.convio.net/site/R?i=cwveLFxL0z8FacBySNH8zw>

Source: Visit www.safekids.org for more information on safety seats & seatbelts, swimming, camping, hiking, skateboarding, scooters ...

Kids Corner continued on page 4 ...



Kid's Corner cont.

Pediatric Prehospital Care presented to Instructors in Georgia

By, Micheal K. Cortell, NREMT-P, AAS

On May 1 and 2, 2004, the PPC National Faculty gathered together with local instructors to present a combined provider and advanced instructor course at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia. Children's Response Transport Team hosted the course in response to a desire to provide excellent training to local Prehospital providers. The Children's Response Education Council was presented with the Pediatric Prehospital Care course, and it was immediately recognized as an effective method of reaching out to other providers.

As a result of this desire, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta was proud to host the PPC course at their state of the art training center. A core group of highly skilled EMS providers and educators attended the course. The attendees represented a diverse background, ranging from Registered Nurses to rural EMS providers to professional educators. As a group, the students recognized the value and worth of the course material. Under the guidance of the National Faculty, most of the students present "caught the vision" for the course.

Several provider and instructor courses have been scheduled in the Atlanta, Georgia area as a result of this course. The Pediatric Prehospital Care program in the State of Georgia is poised to accelerate at a tremendous rate by the influx of new, excited instructors. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and the Children's Response Transport Team is committed to enhancing the lives of children through excellence in patient care, research, and education. A successful PPC program in Georgia will help achieve that goal.

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, one of the leading pediatric healthcare systems in the country, is a not-for-profit organization. With 430 licensed beds in two hospitals and more than 460,000 annual patient visits, Children's is recognized for excellence in cardiac, cancer and transplant services, as well as in many other pediatric specialties.

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Office of EMS/Trauma News

Recertification, card issuance

The deadline for medic recertification applications was June 30th. There are approximately 13,000 medics seeking recertification. We expect all applications for recertification that meet requirements in rule and policy to be processed by the end of July. Requests from employers or medics to check the status of their recertification cannot be honored during this time period. To do so would halt the recertification process and cause further delays. Employers with special circumstances that require more immediate attention, such as legal proceedings or medical case reviews, may call David Bean, Director at 404 657 2596 or Ej Dailey, Deputy Director at 404 679 0547 for assistance.

Operations Research & Analysis Section (ORAS) Activities

First Quarter NREMT EMT-I Testing Analysis. A preliminary analysis of Georgia, statewide, first quarter, NREMT test results for EMT-I level licensing candidates by Training Site was completed. The study provides statewide statistics associated with first time test takers on a new version of the EMT-I test. It also contains some preliminary indicators of the relative standing of training institutions based upon EMT-I test results. Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE) and OEMS/T are sharing information to better understand how EMS training can be improved.

National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB). Georgia Trauma Registry data was successfully submitted to the National Trauma Data Bank. This marks the completion of a major 2004 milestone. Data from all 14 designated trauma centers were included.

The analysis of 2003 Georgia Trauma Registry data is essentially complete; results are being compiled for release; a draft publication "Trauma in Georgia – 2003" is being mocked-up. While some preliminary statistics have been released, the first official reviews of the draft report with the various Trauma Committees will begin at the end of July.

Georgia EMS Information System (GEMSIS). GEMSIS Stakeholders received a draft copy of the GEMSIS strategic plan for review and comment. The GEMSIS plan defines 10 strategic and operational goals, which develop statewide EMS infrastructure. The document outlines the steps needed to develop a new system for statewide EMS data collection, analysis and reporting to support these goals.

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